

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (NEW) A shield assembly for wall penetration of flexible tubing, comprising:

an elongated sleeve comprised of a tube or channel having a first side, a second side, an upper side, a lower side, and a first open end opposed to a second open end whereby flexible tubing may be installed into the first open end, pass through the tube or channel, and exit the second open end;

said elongated sleeve being of predetermined length sufficient to penetrate an exterior frame wall through any exterior sheathing and building siding;

said elongated sleeve being of predetermined inside dimensions to accommodate one or more flexible tubes;

an attachment plate of sufficient strength to resist deformation due to manually applied pressure;

said attachment plate having one or more attachment holes for installation of mounting hardware;

said attachment plate being affixed to one of the first or second sides of the elongated sleeve such that the one or more attachment holes are oriented to permit installation of attachment hardware into a building-framing stud; and

~~the geometric angle between the attachment plate and the elongated tube is such that, when the shield assembly is mounted to a building framing stud, flexible tubing may be installed into the shield assembly without kinking.~~

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The geometric angle between the centerline of the longitudinal direction of the said attachment plate and the elongated dimension of the said elongated sleeve is such that, when the centerline of the longitudinal direction of the said attachment plate is vertical, the first open end faces at an upward angle and the second open end faces at a downward angle.

13. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 12, wherein geometric angle between the attachment plate, and the elongated tube is between twenty (20) degrees and seventy five (75) degrees.

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14. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 12, wherein the elongated sleeve is comprised of durable material selected from the group comprising at least one of metal, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or plastic.

15. (NEW) A shield assembly for wall penetration of flexible tubing, comprising:

an elongated sleeve comprised of a tube or channel having a first side, a second side, an upper side, a lower side, and a first open end opposed to a second open end whereby flexible tubing may be installed into the first open end, pass through said tube or channel, and exit out the second open end;

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said sleeve being of predetermined length sufficient to penetrate an exterior frame wall through any exterior sheathing and building siding;

said sleeve being of predetermined inside dimensions to accommodate one or more flexible tubes;

an attachment angle of sufficient strength to resist deformation due to manually applied pressure;

said attachment angle affixed to one of the upper side
of the elongated tube or channel along the edge of the
first open end or across the vertical midsection of the
lower side of the elongated tube or channel;

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said attachment angle having one or more attachment
holes for installation of mounting hardware; and

~~said attachment angle affixed to the elongated sleeve
at a geometric angle whereby after said shield assembly is
mounted to a stud wall, flexible tubing installed in the
shield assembly can be installed without kinking.~~

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The geometric angle between the attachment angle and the upper or lower side of
the said elongated sleeve is such that, when the attachment angle, first, and second sides
are vertical, the first open end faces at an upward angle and the second open end faces at
a downward angle.

16. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 15, wherein the
attachment angle is affixed to the elongated sleeve at a
geometric angle between twenty (20) and seventy five (75)
degrees.

17. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 15, wherein the
elongated sleeve is comprised of durable material selected
from the group comprising at least one of metal, polyvinyl
chloride (PVC) or plastic.

18. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 15, wherein the
shield assembly includes a first attachment angle and a
second attachment angle, the first attachment angle affixed
to the top side of the elongated tube or channel along the
edge of the first open end and the second attachment angle
being affixed to the vertical midsection of the bottom side
of the elongated tube or channel.

19. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 18, wherein the elongated sleeve is comprised of durable material selected from the group comprising at least one of metal, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or plastic.

20. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 18, wherein the first attachment angle and the second attachment angle are affixed to the elongated sleeve at geometric angles between twenty (20) and seventy five (75) degrees.

21. (NEW) A shield assembly for wall penetration of flexible tubing, comprising:

an elongated sleeve comprised of a tube or channel having a first side, a second side, an upper side, a lower side, and a first open end opposed to a second open end whereby flexible tubing may be installed into the first open end, pass through said tube or channel, and exit out the second open end;

said sleeve being of predetermined length sufficient to penetrate an exterior frame wall through any exterior sheathing and building siding;

said sleeve being of predetermined inside dimensions to accommodate one or more flexible tubes;

an attachment angle of sufficient strength to resist deformation due to manually applied pressure;

said attachment angle having one or more attachment holes for installation of mounting hardware;

said attachment angle being affixed to one of the first or second sides of the elongated sleeve such that the one or more attachment holes are oriented to permit

installation of attachment hardware into building exterior sheathing; and

~~the geometric angle between the attachment angle and the elongated tube is such that, when the shield assembly is mounted to the building exterior sheathing, flexible tubing may be installed through the shield assembly without kinking.~~

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The geometric angle between the centerline of the longitudinal direction of the said attachment angle and the elongated dimension of the said elongated sleeve is such that, when the centerline of the longitudinal direction of the said attachment angle is vertical, the first open end faces at an upward angle and the second open end faces at a downward angle.

22. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 21, wherein the geometric angle between the attachment angle and the elongated tube is between twenty (20) and seventy five (75) degrees.

23. (NEW) The shield assembly of claim 21, wherein the elongated sleeve is comprised of durable material selected from the group comprising at least one of metal, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or plastic.